AMENDMENTS

In the specification:

Please delete the priority claim as originally filed on page 1, lines 3-15, and replace with the following amended priority claim:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/355,700, which is a 35 USC §371 U.S. National Stage filing of International Application No. PCT/US98/01973, filed February 2, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,361,946 which is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/795,430, filed February 5, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,130,071. This patent application also is a continuation-in-part of International Patent Application PCT/FI96/00427, filed August 01, 1996; and a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial No. 08/671,573, filed June 28, 1996; and a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial Number 08/601,132, filed February 14, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,403,088; and a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial Number 08/585,895, filed January 12, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 6,245,530; and a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial Number 08/510,133, filed August 1, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 6,221,839, and a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application Serial Number 08/340,011, filed November 14, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,776,755

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 10, and 38-39; amend claims 5, 19, 28, 31, 33, and 37; and add new claim 40 as shown below and in the appendix (markup showing changes made):

5. (Amended) A method of modulating the activity of Flt4 receptor tyrosine kinase (Flt4), comprising the steps of:

identifying a patient in need of modulation of Flt4 activity; and

administering to the patient a composition comprising a purified polypeptide in an amount effective to modulate the activity of Flt4, wherein the polypeptide binds the extracellular domain (EC) of Flt4 and stimulates Flt4 phosphorylation in mammalian cells expressing Flt4, said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence comprising a portion of SEQ ID NO: 8 effective to permit such binding.